

Family Literacy Foundation

Mission: *To facilitate supportive relationships for children through family and friends reading aloud with them*

Focus: *Deployed Navy and Marine Corps, High Schools, Detention Centers, Providing*
Youth Reading Role Educational Services
Uniting Through Reading



**Building Bridges
With Books**



UNITING THROUGH

READING[®]

A quality-of-life program whereby deployed military personnel communicate with their children through the medium of reading stories aloud on videotape



"This picture brought tears to my eyes. It makes me feel great to know that my old son hasn't forgotten about me. We out here on the big blue sea need everything they can to raise morale and this program is a great help. Thanks so much!"

Petty Officer Third Class William J. [Name]
USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)

“FULL CIRCLE” Method of Communication

1. DEPLOYED SAILOR READS BOOK ALOUD ON VIDEOTAPE AND SENDS TAPE TO CHILD

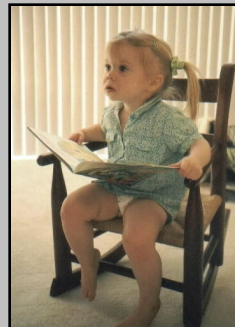
2. PARENT OR CAREGIVER AT HOME SHOWS VIDEOTAPE TO CHILD WHO FOLLOWS ALONG WITH THE BOOK*

5. SAILOR RECEIVES VIDEOTAPE/PICTURE AND KNOWS TIME WAS WELL SPENT READING TO THE CHILD

**Email,
Letter**

4. TAPE OR PICTURE OF CHILD IS SENT TO DEPLOYED SAILOR

3. PARENT OR CAREGIVER USES CAMCORDER OR CAMERA TO RECORD CHILD'S INTERACTION WITH READER AS HE/SHE WATCHES TAPE



BENEFITS of Participation in Uniting Through Reading

- Reduces children's **anxieties** about deployed parent's absence
- **Homecomings** are easier for parent and child
- **Improved morale** for all family members
- **Spouse** on home front feels more parenting support
- **Family traditions** begin or continue
- **Promotes reading** as an enjoyable activity
- Creates positive attitudes and **self-esteem**



EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

- Enhances language and vocabulary development
- Fosters creative thinking and active imagery skills
- Enhances comprehension and listening skills
- Can improve child's attention
- Provides opportunity to address family values, peer pressures, social issues
- Creates positive attitudes and self-esteem

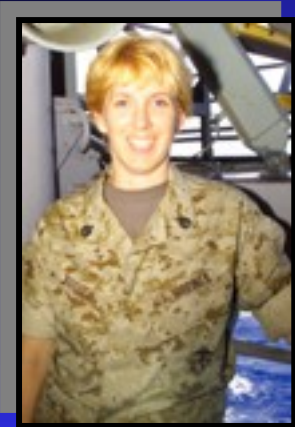


Courtesy ABC World News Tonight

COMMAND BENEFITS UNITING THROUGH READING®



- QOL/QOS initiative enhances family communication
- Available to all personnel throughout deployment
- Opportunity to recognize Volunteers in the Command
- “Good News” public affairs story for Navy and USMC



SSGT Tuggle-13 MEUPetty Officer and Mrs.
Durel

“SINGLE” SAILOR PARTICIPATION

Extended Family

- Younger brothers, sisters
nieces, nephews
- Grandchild

Mentor/Role Model

- Partners in Education
- Big Brother/ Big Sister
- Adopt-A-School program



“NEW DADS” PROGRAM

Sailors might not be able to be home for the birth of their child, but there is a way for them to share in this special occasion.

- Their baby will become accustomed to the sound of his/her Dad's voice and will get to know them even while gone
- Deployed Sailors won't be a stranger upon return

HOW?

- Encourage “New Dads” to sign up for a UTR session
- The book “Love You Forever” is being donated to your library for their first reading to



READING®

Carrier Strike

Groups C. STENNIS

- J. F. KENNEDY
- HARRY S. TRUMAN
- KITTY HAWK

Expeditionary Strike

Groups MAU WOOD ESG and 11th MEU

ESSEX Navy Mobile Construction Battalions

1, 3, 5, 7

Naval Special Warfare

Single Deployers

Trident Submarines



*USS Nimitz (CV 68)
Homecoming-Nov. 03*

Shore-based

- VP40
- MCAS IWAKUNI
- Camp Lemonier, Djibouti
- OIF II- I MEF
- 197TH FA BDE- Camp Cedar 2

Action Steps to make the Program work

➤ **PACK A BOOK** < **BE PREPARED FOR ANY OCCASION!**

For a daughter...son...grandchild...brother...sister...niece...nephew...neighbor

NMCB 3

Is a proud participant of



UNITING THROUGH READING®



YOU can take part in the special occasions of a child's life even while deployed. **PACK** a couple of age appropriate **BOOKS** and padded mailers and you can create moments your special child can relive again and again.

"I sent a birthday tape to my 3-year-old niece along with three books and she loved it. She watches it three times a day at least, according to her mother."

Military Participant

Special Occasions

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ❖ Birthdays | ❖ Graduation |
| ❖ First day of school | ❖ Visit to the doctor |
| ❖ First sports game | ❖ Ballet recital |
| ❖ Special Holidays | ❖ New Baby |
| ❖ Losing a tooth | ❖ Riding a bike |

Learn more at www.read2kids.org.

"PACK A BOOK"

- Pack 2 or 3 of your child's favorite books with padded mailers to take with you.
- Participate in the **FULL CIRCLE of COMMUNICATION**
- Active Duty POC
- Homefront POC

Reading Together Strengthens Families

FLF Website - www.read2kids.org



Uniting Through Reading®

- Program Overview Video
- Testimonials
- FAQ and Research Articles
- Read-Aloud Resources
- Participate in Surveys
- Email Newsletters

